MARVEL
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FEB

DAVID MICHELINIE PLOT* / SCRIPT (FROM AN IDEA BY RON FORTIER) / STEVE DITKO PENCILS / DANNY BULANADI INKS / DIANA ALBERS LETTERS / ROBBIE CAROSELLA COLORS / RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DEATH SLITHERS DARKLY GREEN BENEATH THE WARM WATERS OF THE CARIBBEAN. LUNGING WITH RAZORED TEETH THAT COULD PART A MAN'S HAND FROM HIS WRIST IN A SINGLE, TWISTING SNAP.
FOR THE ALIEN INTRUDER IN THIS SILENT REALM, ARCHAEOLOGIST/ADVENTURER INDIANA JONES, IT IS DEATH THAT IS JUST NARROWLY AVOIDED, SIDESTEPPED BY REFLEXES HONED OVER YEARS OF CLOSE SCRAPES AND NEAR MISSES.
IT IS DEATH, AND IT HAS A NAME...
EEL!

Stan Lee presents: CHAPTER 1:

TRAIL OF THE GOLDEN GUNS

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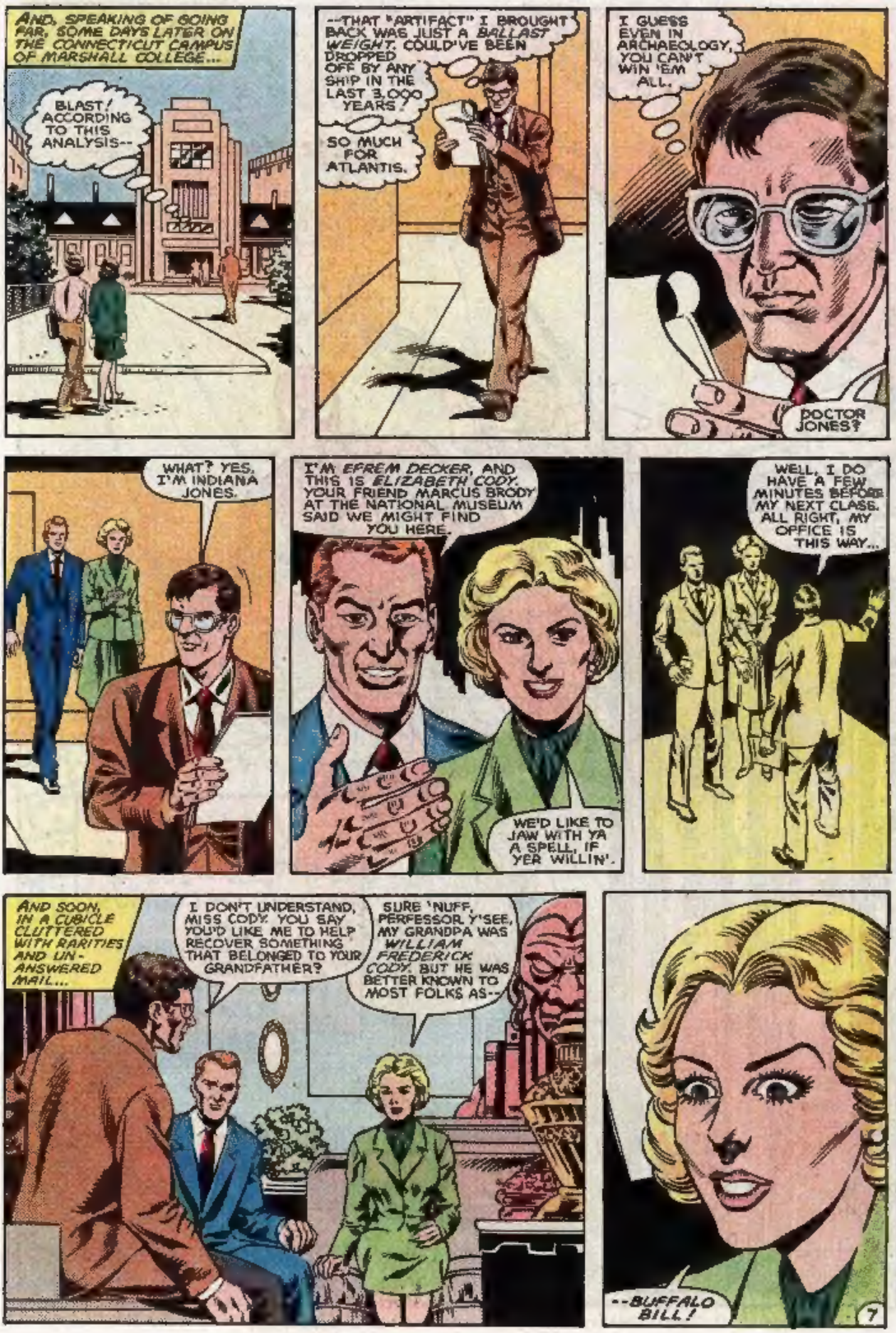
MORAYS CAN GROW UP TO 10 FEET LONG, AND A FOOT IN DIAMETER, AND JUDGING FROM THE PART THAT'S POKING OUT OF THAT CREVICE--
--THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGIES!
BUT WHAT I'M AFTER IS IN THAT SAME NICHE. AND IF I CAN'T GO IN AFTER IT--
--I'LL JUST HAVE TO BRING THAT SNAPJAW OUT!
I'D FEEL BETTER WITH SOMETHING LONGER TO USE FOR A LURE, LIKE MAYBE A THIRTY-FOOT FLAGPOLE!
BUT I GUESS THIS SNEAKER'LL HAVE TO--
WHEW
MISSED MY FINGER BY A HAIR!
SHROPM
THESE MONSTERS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR NOT LETTING GO.
BUT IN CASE THIS ONE SUDDENLY DECIDES THAT FLESH IS TASTIER THAN CANVAS--
--I'D BETTER BAG IT FOR SAFE-KEEPING!
I CAN RELEASE IT ONCE I'M ON BOARD MY EQUIPMENT RAFT.
TAKING THE PRIZE--
--AND A LAST BREATH OF COMPRESSED AIR FROM HIS LE PRIEUR DIVING RIG--
--INDY KICKS SWIFTLY FOR THE SURFACE, WHERE...
A BOAT!
ANCHORED NEXT TO THE RAFT!
2

LOOKS LIKE ALL THE DANGEROUS ANIMALS IN THESE WATERS--
--AREN'T BELOW THE SURFACE!
GOOD AFTERNOON, SEÑOR. I AM CAPTAIN BELGRADE, WELCOME TO PARADISE POINT.
UH, THANKS. THAT'S MIGHTY SWELL OF YA.
NADA. PART OF MY JOB.
ANOTHER PART IS PATROLLING THIS AREA IN SEARCH OF FORTUNE HUNTERS WHO WOULD STEAL NATIONAL TREASURES FROM MY COUNTRY'S WATERS.
I DO NOT SUPPOSE, SEÑOR, THAT YOU WOULD KNOW OF SUCH THINGS?
NOT ME. I'M A SCIENTIST.
THE SYMMETRICAL ROCK FORMATIONS DOWN BELOW HAVE BEEN STUDIED SINCE THE 1920's AND THAT'S ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO. SOME SAY THEY'RE INDICATIONS OF A SUNKEN CONTINENT CALLED ATLANTIS.
I'M LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE.
AND THIS "EVIDENCE", SEÑOR, IT WOULD NOT PERHAPS SPARKLE LIKE GEMSTONES, EH? GLEAM LIKE RARE PORCELAIN...
...BE EASILY CONVERTED INTO A GREAT DEAL OF AMERICAN DOLLARS?
I THINK, SEÑOR, THAT YOU HAD BETTER TURN YOUR DISCOVERIES OVER TO ME!
3

HEY, LOOK PAL, I FILLED OUT ALL THE FORMS IN BIMINI! I'VE GOT THE PROPER PERMITS--!
BUT ALAS, MI AMIGO, YOU NEGLECTED TO OBTAIN--
--MY PERMIT!
AH. I SEE.
SO, THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "EL SHAKEDOWN" EH?
OKAY, YOU'VE GOT THE GUN--
--MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THE LOOT, TOO!
THE BAG! IT IS FULL!
SI! EVEN WITH THE CAPITAN TAKING HALF, OUR SHARE SHOULD--
AAIIEEEEE!
UN ANGUILA!
FORGET THE FISH, YOU FOOLS!
KILL THE MAN!
4

NO WEAPONS! HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH THIS FLARE GUN!
AND JUST HOPE I CAN HIT THE ENGINES, OR THE GAS TANKS, OR--
PWAPOOM
THE AMMO STORES--!
"GOOD ENOUGH..."
OKAY, SHORTY!
NOW!
GOTCHA, INDY! COME QUICK LIKE CAVALRY!
GOOD THING SHORTY'S AS HANDY WITH A SPEEDBOAT AS HE IS WITH A DUESENBERG!
NOW IF I CAN JUST TIME THIS--
KOLAM
FOOM
AGH! G-GOT THE CATCH RING!
BUT IT ALMOST TOOK MY ARM... AND LEFT THE REST OF ME FLOATING!
5

IGNORE THE PAIN, JONES! JUST HANG ON... TOSS THE BAG IN...
...AND IGNORE IT!
YEAH... EASY TO SAY...
...TOUGH TO DO!
HURRY UP AND GET IN, INDY! YOU SLOWING US DOWN!
GEE, KID... I'M SORRY AS HECK.
YOU PRETTY SMART, DOCTOR JONES, KEEPING SHORT-ROUND HIDDEN AS ACE-IN-HOLE!
SHORTY'S SURE EARNED HIS KEEP THIS TIME. GLAD I TOOK HIM UNDER MY WING SINCE I FOUND HIM WANDERING THE STREETS OF SHANGHAI -- TRYING TO PICK MY POCKET.
HOW COULD I BLAME HIM, THOUGH, WITH HIS PARENTS KILLED WHEN THEY BOMBED SHANGHAI AND ALL.
AND YOU CAME THROUGH LIKE A TROUPER, SHORTY. BUT ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN--
--BECAUSE AS SOON AS WE HIT THE STATES IT'S BACK TO BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOU.
AW, GOSH, INDY, I'D RATHER STAY WITH YOU. SCHOOL NO FUN.
OH, YEAH? WHY NOT?
NOBODY SHOOT AT YOU THERE!
KID, YOU'RE GONNA GO FAR...
6

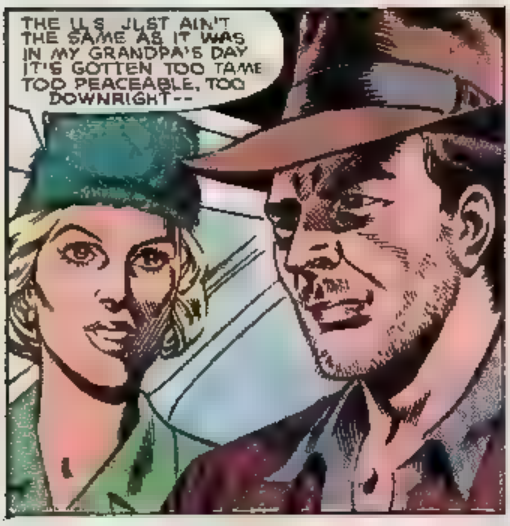

AND, SPEAKING OF GOING FAR, SOME DAYS LATER ON THE CONNECTICUT CAMPUS OF MARSHALL COLLEGE...
BLAST! ACCORDING TO THIS ANALYSIS--
--THAT "ARTIFACT" I BROUGHT BACK WAS JUST A BALLAST WEIGHT. COULD'VE BEEN DROPPED OFF BY ANY SHIP IN THE LAST 3,000 YEARS.
SO MUCH FOR ATLANTIS.
I GUESS EVEN IN ARCHAEOLOGY, YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL.
DOCTOR JONES?
WHAT? YES, I'M INDIANA JONES.
I'M EFREM DECKER, AND THIS IS ELIZABETH CODY. YOUR FRIEND MARCUS BRODY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SAID WE MIGHT FIND YOU HERE.
WE'D LIKE TO JAW WITH YA A SPELL, IF YER WILLIN'.
WELL, I DO HAVE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY NEXT CLASS. ALL RIGHT, MY OFFICE IS THIS WAY...
AND SOON, IN A CUBICLE CLUTTERED WITH RARITIES AND UN-ANSWERED MAIL...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MISS CODY. YOU SAY YOU'D LIKE ME TO HELP RECOVER SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO YOUR GRANDFATHER?
SURE 'NUFF, PERFESSOR. Y'SEE, MY GRANDPA WAS WILLIAM FREDERICK CODY. BUT HE WAS BETTER KNOWN TO MOST FOLKS AS--
--BUFFALO BILL!
7

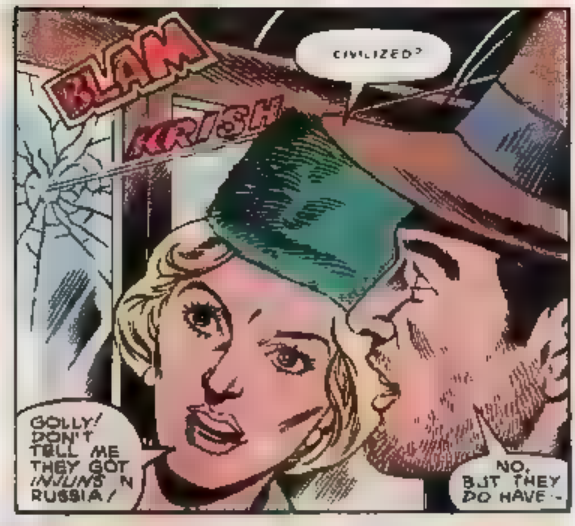
GRAMPS WAS SOME CHARACTER, LEMME TELL YA. HE DIED WHEN I WAS REAL YOUNG. BUT I CAN STILL REMEMBER HIM SPINNIN' YARNS 'BOUT THE TIME HE TOOK HIS "WILD WEST AND CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD SHOW" TO RUSSIA, GAVE SUCH A HUMDINGER OF A PERFORMANCE FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY THAT THE CZAR HISSELF AWARDED GRAMPS A SPECIAL PRIZE--
"--A MATCHED PAIR OF GOLD-PLATED, PEARL-GRIPPED REVOLVERS. WHEN GRANDPA PASSED ON, THE GUNS WERE PUT ON PERMANENT DISPLAY AT THE BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM IN CODY, WYOMING. BUT A FEW WEEKS BACK WE GOT AN OFFER TO BUY 'EM, FROM A ROOSKI COUNT NAME OF SALKOVICH. WE TURNED 'IM DOWN POLITELY, O' COURSE.
" THEN WE GOT HIS SECOND OFFER, ALMOST A DEMAND; OUR SECOND TURN-DOWN WEREN'T SO POLITE.
THEN FINALLY, DAY 'FORE YESTERDAY SOMEBODY BROKE INTO THE MUSEUM-- AND STOLE THE GUNS!
WE GOT NO PROOF, DOC, BUT I KNOW IN MY GUT THAT SALKOVICH WAS BEHIND IT. AND I WANT YOU TO GO TO RUSSIA WITH ME AND HELP ME GET MY GRANDAD'S GUNS BACK!
MR. BRODY SAID YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING OFF TO RECOVER LOST RELICS AND THE LIKE. HE SAID IT WAS A SPECIALTY OF YOURS.

I'M FLATTERED, MISS CODY, BUT I REALLY THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF CONSULTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS.
I ALREADY DID!
OH?
THAT'S RIGHT, DR. JONES, I'M FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
IT WAS I WHO SUGGESTED MISS CODY COME TO YOU.
THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE BOLSHEVIK RULERS AND THE NAZI GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY.
WE'D LIKE YOU TO GO TO RUSSIA FOR US, TO SOUND OUT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE THERE--
--UNDER THE GUISE OF LOOKING FOR THE BUFFALO BILL MEMORABILIA.
I'M NOT MUCH OF A POLITICAL MAN, MR. DECKER.
BUT THOSE GUNS ARE PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY, AND IF I CAN BRING THEM BACK, WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOOTING THE BILLS...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
CAPITAL!
HOT DANG!
PREPARATIONS AND TRAVEL TAKE DAYS, AND AT THE END OF THOSE DAYS, AS A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE TRUNDLES ITS WAY THROUGH THE WINDING STEPPE COUNTRY OF THE SOUTHERN UKRAINE...
YA EVER BEEN TO RUSSIA BEFORE, DOC?
MM-HM.
9

LAST TIME WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. AT SOME EXCAVATIONS IN THE NALEVO REGION WE MADE SOME INTERESTING DISCOVERIES ABOUT A GROUP OF CHALCOLITHIC KURGANS--THAT'S BURIAL MOUNDS--
--BUT I HAD TO LEAVE IN SOMETHING OF A HURRY AN I'M MISUNDERSTANDING.

YA SURE GET AROUND, DON'T YA? ME THIS IS MY FIRST TIME OUTSIDE THE STATES.
AN' I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A LITTLE EXCITEMENT

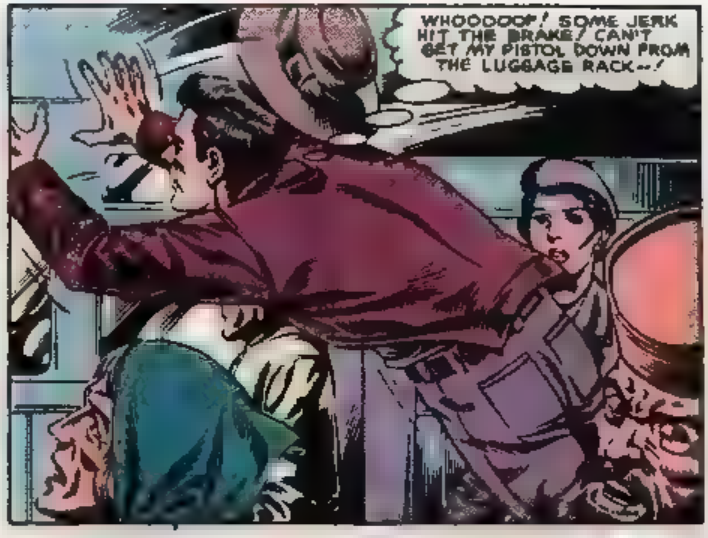

THE U.S. JUST AIN'T THE SAME AS IT WAS IN MY GRANDPA'S DAY IT'S GOTTEN TOO TAME TOO PEACEABLE, TOO DOWNRIGHT--


BLAM
KRISH
CIVILIZED?
GOLLY! DON'T TELL ME THEY GOT INJUNS IN RUSSIA!
NO, BUT THEY DO HAVE--

"--COSSACKS!"
WHOOYAA!
KRAK
HYAAGA!!

YOU WILL BE STOPPING THE TRAIN NOW, COMRADE--OR WILL I BE STOPPING YOUR LIFE!
D-D-DA!

SKREEEE


WHOOOOOP! SOME JERK HIT THE BRAKE / CAN'T GET MY PISTOL DOWN FROM THE LUGGAGE RACK--!

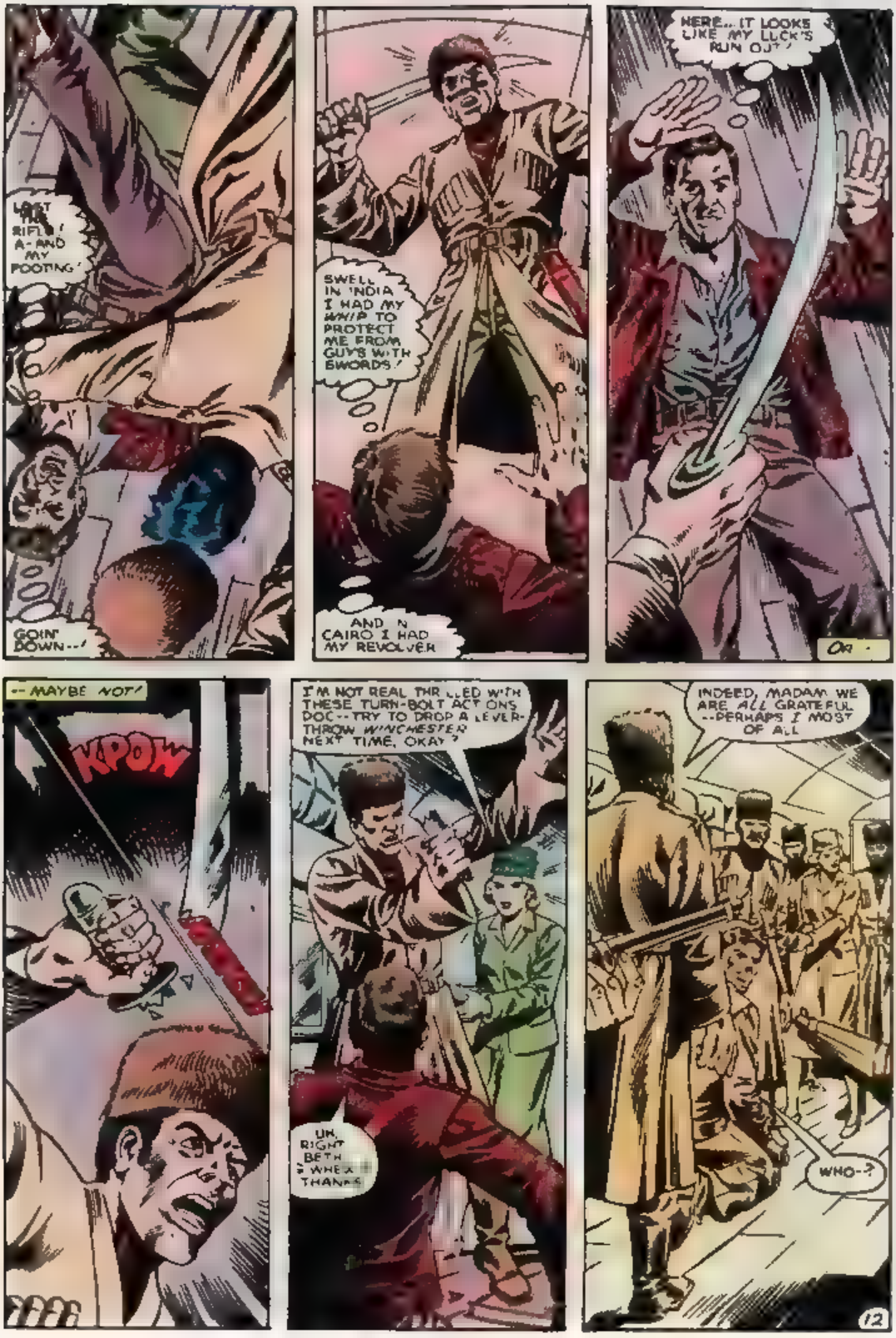
AND WE'VE ALREADY BEEN BOARDED!
THESE JOKERS MOVE FAST

BETTER SLOW 'EM DOWN A BIT!
M-MY LUNCH--!

KAPALOOP
WHAT--?!

GOOD! CONFUSION'S THROWIN' 'EM OFF!
ENOUGH FOR ME TO WRESTLE THE RIFLE AWAY FROM--

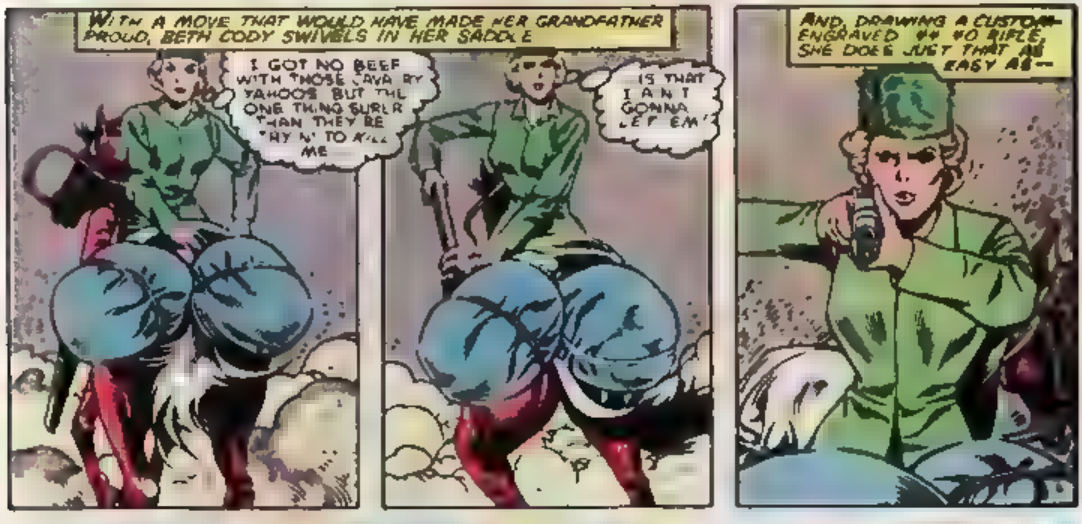
PHWUD
WHOOOAF
11

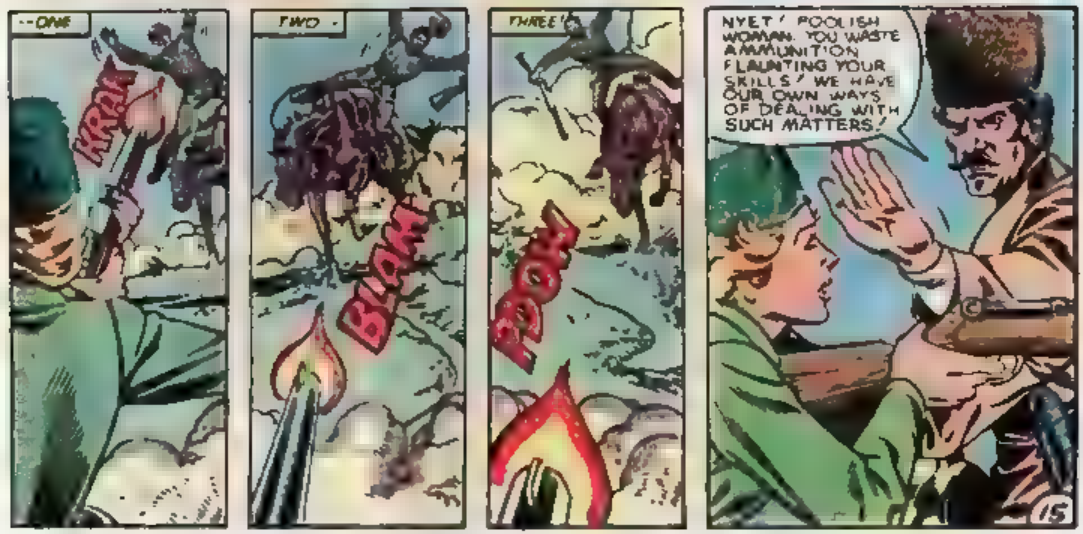

LOST THE RIFLE, A-AND MY FOOTING!
GOIN' DOWN--!
SWELL IN INDIA I HAD MY WHIP TO PROTECT ME FROM GUYS WITH SWORDS!
AND N CAIRO I HAD MY REVOLVER
HERE... IT LOOKS LIKE MY LUCK'S RUN OUT!
OH
--MAYBE NOT!
KPOW
I'M NOT REAL THR LED WITH THESE TURN-BOLT ACTONS DOC--TRY TO DROP A LEVER-THROW WINCHESTER NEXT TIME, OKAY?
UH, RIGHT BETH S WHEX THANKS
INDEED, MADAM WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL --PERHAPS I MOST OF ALL
WHO--?
12

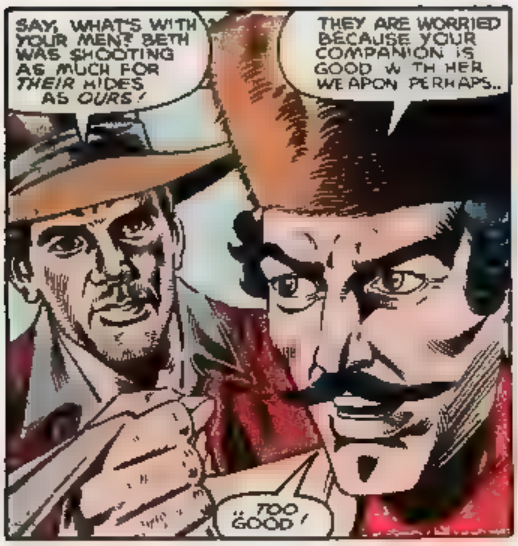
I AM PETER ROSTOFF.
AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST EMBARRASSING HAD ONE OF MY OVERZEALOUS COMRADES DAMAGED THE VERY PRIZE FOR WHICH WE STOPPED THIS TRAIN--
--DR INDIANA JONES!
DOC! HE KNOWS YA!
MORE PRECISELY, WE KNOW OF HIM JUST AS WE KNOW YOU, MISS CODY
NOW, IF YOU WILL BOTH STEP FROM THE TRAIN WITH US...?
SORRY "IAN" WE'RE NOT GO'N ANYMORE!
NO? THEN YOU HAVE LOST INTEREST IN LEARNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF
WHA-?
I THOUGHT NOT PLEASE, THIS WAY...
SOON
YOUR BELONGINGS HAVE BEEN STRAPPED TO SPARE HORSES AND AS SOON AS YOU MOUNT THEM YOURSELVES WE CAN
JUST A MINUTE, BUSTER!
13

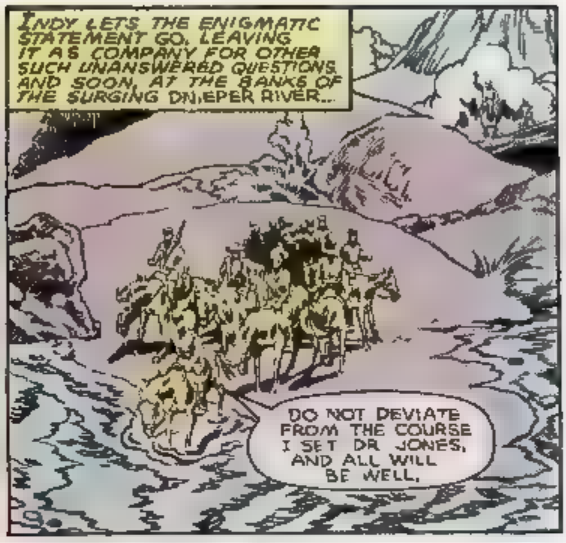
BETH—
NO./ WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS FELLA'S FULL OF / I'M NOT TAKIN' ANOTHER STEP 'TIL—
PETER THE R DGE
I AM SORRY, BUT WE HAVE NO TIME TO ARGUE / THEY HAVE FOUND US/
AND THEY, MADAM, ARE—
—THE RED CAVALRY/
"THEY HAVE BEEN TRACKING MY MEN AND I FOR WEEKS THOUGH I HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE THIS CLOSE/
THEIR CAPTAIN WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO CRUSH MY SKULL BENEATH HIS BOOTS/
"—AND THOSE OF ANYONE WITH ME/"
I DUNNO DOC THOSE HORSE-MEN ARE THE AUTHORITY AROUND HERE MAYBE WE'D DO BETTER S DIN' WITH THEM
NOT SMART BETH, INTERROGATION BY THE RED CAVALRY CAN BE JUST AS UNPLEASANT AS BEING KIDNAPPED BY A BAND OF COSSACKS/
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT/

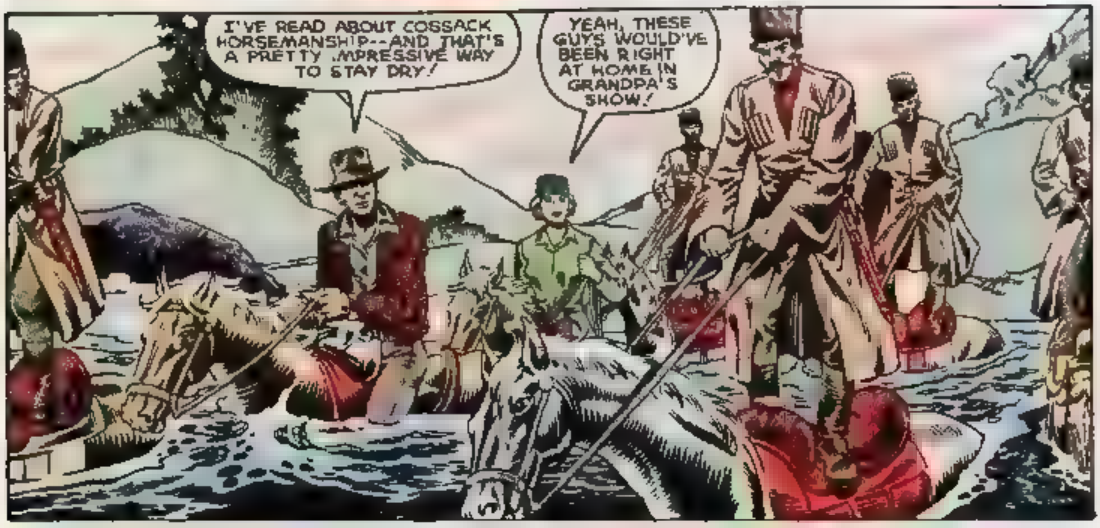
REMEMBER THAT LITTLE "MISUNDERSTANDING" I WAS TALKING ABOUT?
OH
OH!
BLAM
KRAKOW
RIDE COMRADES! THEY ARE UPON US!


WITH A MOVE THAT WOULD HAVE MADE HER GRANDFATHER PROUD, BETH CODY SWIVELS IN HER SADDLE
I GOT NO BEEF WITH THOSE JAVA BY YAHOOS BUT THE ONE THING SURER THAN THEY'RE TRY'N' TO KILL ME
IS THAT I AIN'T GONNA LET 'EM!
AND, DRAWING A CUSTOM-ENGRAVED .44 RIFLE, SHE DOES JUST THAT AS EASY AS--


--ONE
KRAK
TWO--
BLAM!
THREE!
POOM
NYET! FOOLISH WOMAN. YOU WASTE AMMUNITION FLAUNTING YOUR SKILLS! WE HAVE OUR OWN WAYS OF DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS!
15


SAY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR MEN? BETH WAS SHOOTING AS MUCH FOR THEIR HIDES AS OURS!
THEY ARE WORRIED BECAUSE YOUR COMPANION IS GOOD W TH HER WEAPON PERHAPS..
"TOO GOOD!

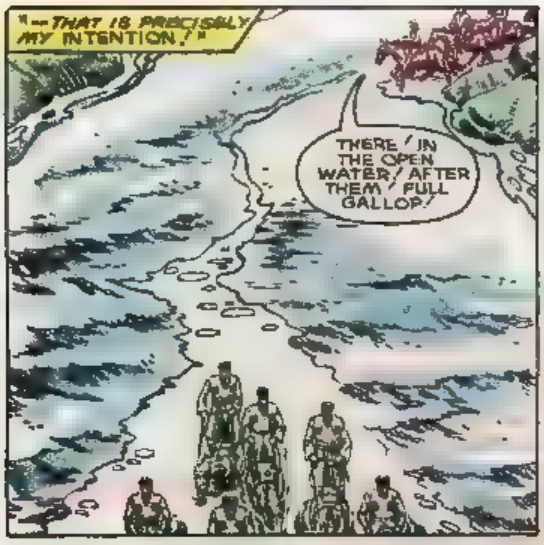

INDY LETS THE ENIGMATIC STATEMENT GO, LEAVING IT AS COMPANY FOR OTHER SUCH UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND SOON, AT THE BANKS OF THE SURGING DNIEPER RIVER...
DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE COURSE I SET DR JONES, AND ALL WILL BE WELL.

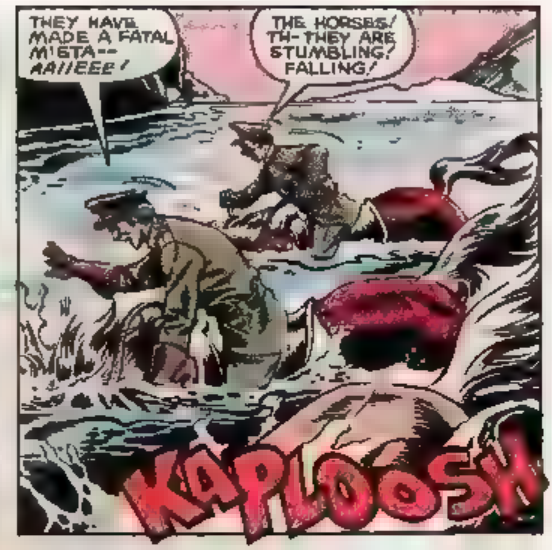

I'VE READ ABOUT COSSACK HORSEMANSHIP--AND THAT'S A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE WAY TO STAY DRY!
YEAH, THESE GUYS WOULD'VE BEEN RIGHT AT HOME IN GRANDPA'S SHOW!

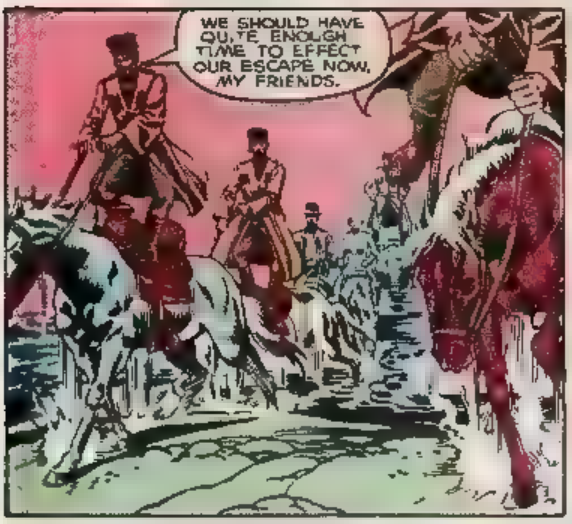
BUT THEN, AS THE PROCESSION TAKES AN UNEXPECTED TURN
HEY ROSTOFF!

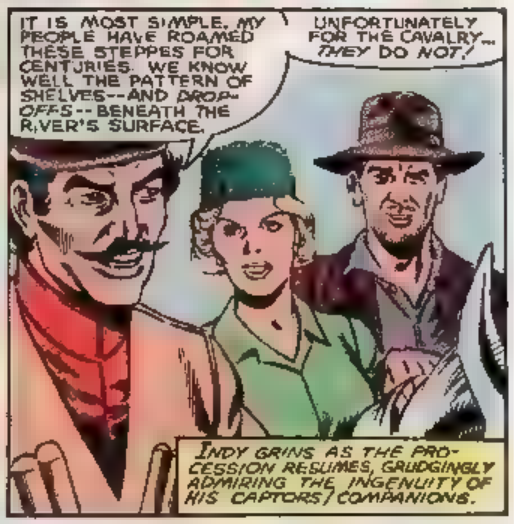
SHOULDN'T WE BE HEADING FOR THE OPPOSITE BANK? YOU'RE LEADING US RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER!
I KNOW

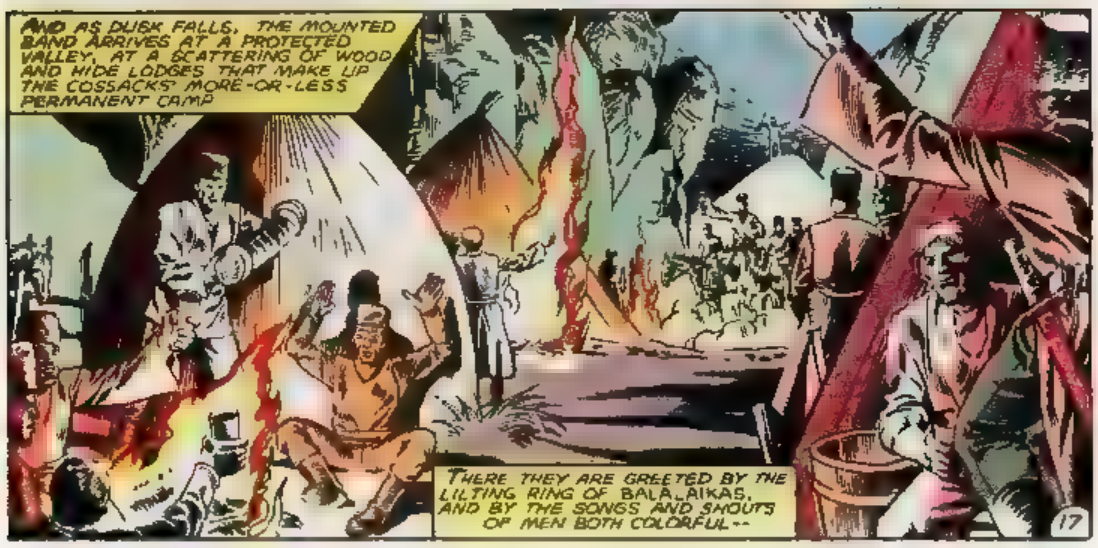
BUT THE CAVALRY'S TOO CLOSE! THEY'LL ANGLE THROUGH THE WATER AND CUT US OFF!
MY FRIEND--


"--THAT IS PRECISELY MY INTENTION."
THERE! IN THE OPEN WATER! AFTER THEM! FULL GALLOP!


THEY HAVE MADE A FATAL M'STA-- AAIIEEE!
THE HORSES! TH-THEY ARE STUMBLING! FALLING!
KAPLOOSH

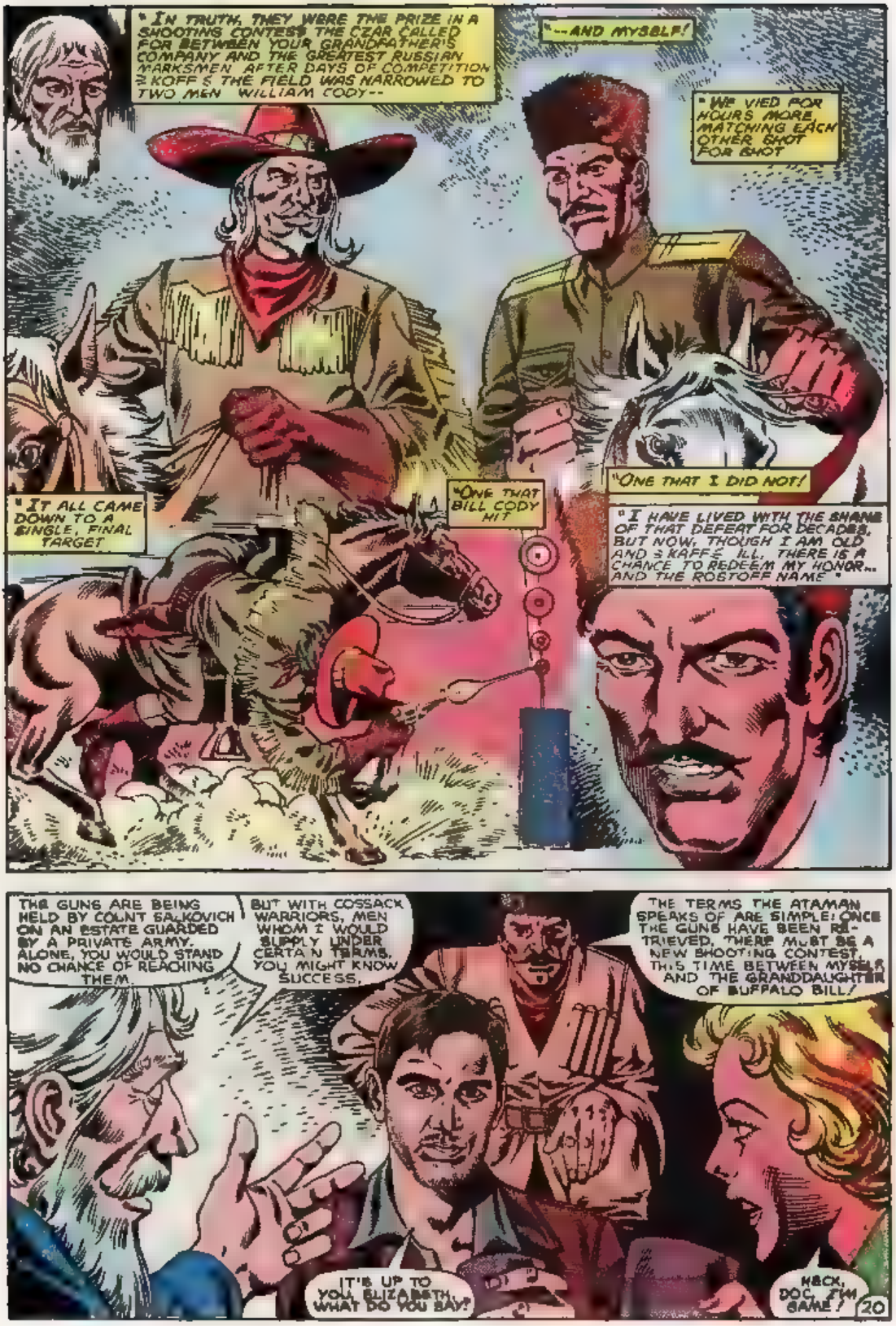

WE SHOULD HAVE QUITE ENOUGH TIME TO EFFECT OUR ESCAPE NOW, MY FRIENDS.


IT IS MOST SIMPLE. MY PEOPLE HAVE ROAMED THESE STEPPES FOR CENTURIES. WE KNOW WELL THE PATTERN OF SHELVES--AND DROP-OFFS--BENEATH THE RIVER'S SURFACE.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE CAVALRY... THEY DO NOT!
INDY GRINS AS THE PROCESSION RESUMES, GRUDGINGLY ADMIRING THE INGENUITY OF HIS CAPTORS' COMPANIONS.


AND AS DUSK FALLS, THE MOUNTED BAND ARRIVES AT A PROTECTED VALLEY, AT A SCATTERING OF WOOD AND HIDE LODGES THAT MAKE UP THE COSSACKS' MORE-OR-LESS PERMANENT CAMP
THERE THEY ARE GREETED BY THE LILTING RING OF BALALAIKAS, AND BY THE SONGS AND SHOUTS OF MEN BOTH COLORFUL--

--AND CRUDE!
WHU--?!
COME, DOUSCHKA! THE ATAMAN CAN HAVE THE OTHER ONE--ILYA PUGACHEV WILL ENTERTAIN YOU!
LEMME GO, YA BRUTE!
OH, N-YA WILL LET YOU GO, L-TTLE ONE!
DA! WHEN HE TURNS YOU OVER TO US! HA HA!
HANDS OFF, SLICK! I KNOW THE COSSACK CODE SAYS THAT WOMEN EXIST TO SERVE MEN--
--BUT THIS WOMAN ISN'T COSSACK!
EH?
YOU DARE INTERFERE? AN OUTSIDER?
YOU, DIE!
AW, NO! NOT AGA N!
I'M START N TO GET TIRED OF SWORDS!
THUNK
YIIIEEEE!
KLAK
FRAK
18

Y-YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT AMERIKANSKI!
I WILL RAISE YOUR HEAD ON A BATTLE PIKE FOR ALL THE WORLD TO--
NYET!
THE ATAMAN WISHES TO SPEAK WITH OUR GUESTS-- BOTH OF THEM-- IN OUR LODGE.
NOW!
VERY WELL. ENJOY YOUR TALK WITH OUR LEADER, AMERKANSKI.
WHILE YOU STILL HAVE A THROAT!
AND SOON, WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A CENTRAL LODGE.
MISS CODY, DR. JONES, THIS IS URI ROSTOFF, OUR ATAMAN-- TRIBAL CHIEFTAIN-- AND ALSO MY GRANDFATHER
WE HAVE BEEN ?K-KOFF? EXPECTING YOU.
YEAH, WE GATHERED THAT. BUT HOW?
WE LEARNED OF YOUR COMING AND OF YOUR ROUTE FROM A SPY SYSTEM AS OLD AS THE VERY HILLS IN WHICH WE LIVE.
AND WE ALSO LEARNED YOUR PURPOSE--THAT YOU SEEK THE STOLEN GUNS OF YOUR "BUFFALO BILL"
DA, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING--
?CH KAFF? PLEASE EXCUSE
-SOME THING YOU APPARENTLY DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THOSE FIREARMS
THEY WERE NOT ACTUALLY GIVEN TO BILL CODY.


"IN TRUTH, THEY WERE THE PRIZE IN A SHOOTING CONTEST THE CZAR CALLED FOR BETWEEN YOUR GRANDFATHER'S COMPANY AND THE GREATEST RUSSIAN MARKSMEN AFTER DAYS OF COMPETITION & KOFF & THE FIELD WAS NARROWED TO TWO MEN WILLIAM CODY--
"--AND MYSELF!
"WE VIED FOR HOURS MORE MATCHING EACH OTHER SHOT FOR SHOT
"IT ALL CAME DOWN TO A SINGLE, FINAL TARGET
"ONE THAT BILL CODY HIT
"ONE THAT I DID NOT!
"I HAVE LIVED WITH THE SHAME OF THAT DEFEAT FOR DECADES. BUT NOW, THOUGH I AM OLD AND & KAFFE ILL, THERE IS A CHANCE TO REDEEM MY HONOR.. AND THE ROSTOFF NAME."
THE GUNS ARE BEING HELD BY COUNT SALKOVICH ON AN ESTATE GUARDED BY A PRIVATE ARMY. ALONE, YOU WOULD STAND NO CHANCE OF REACHING THEM.
BUT WITH COSSACK WARRIORS, MEN WHOM I WOULD SUPPLY UNDER CERTAIN TERMS, YOU MIGHT KNOW SUCCESS.
THE TERMS THE ATAMAN SPEAKS OF ARE SIMPLE! ONCE THE GUNS HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED, THERE MUST BE A NEW SHOOTING CONTEST. THIS TIME BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF BUFFALO BILL!
IT'S UP TO YOU, ELIZABETH. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HECK, DOC, I'M GAME!
20

Bullpen Bulletins

"PERSONALS!"

That's the title of the story which is begun, but not finished, in *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book*, in case you didn't know. That's the book in which I, the Editor in Chief of Mighty Marvel, give everyone out there who wants to be a comic book creator a chance to try out his or her skills under simulated professional working conditions, and, possibly to create professional quality *samples* to submit to us (or any other company) when applying for a job. The *Try-Out* book provides pages to color, to ink, to letter, to script, and to draw. Also, since I deliberately left out the *ending* of the story therein, the *Try-Out* book gives a would-be comics creator a chance to try his hand at *plotting* — devising a way out of the mess in which I leave Spider-Man.

That brilliant maneuver has, apparently, left a lot of people frustrated. I've gotten tons of mail from people wanting to know how the story ends. The honest answer is . . . *I don't know!*

However, I've got yet *another* brilliant maneuver up my sleeve to solve this problem. Here's what we're going to do:

— Run a *Try-Out Contest* and choose the best new penciler, inker, scripter, letterer, colorist, and you guessed it, *plotter!*

— Let our *Try-Out Contest* winners *finish* the story, "Personals!", begun by myself, John Romita, Jr., Al Milgrom, Jim Novak, and Christie Scheele in the *Try-Out Book*, and . . .

— *Publish* the finished story in a Special Edition of *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

How *about* that?

Details of the contest and info on how you can buy *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book* can be found elsewhere in this comic book! You don't *have* to buy a *Try-Out Book* to enter the contest (at $12.95, it's not cheap!), but it does contain lots of useful information which may be helpful. Samples on your own paper will do.

CHANGES!

Jim Owsley has been promoted from Assistant Editor to Editor of the Spider-Man titles, replacing Danny Fingeroth, who, after eight years in the editing biz has bailed out to become a writer (exclusively for Marvel, natch!). Things have improved already with Owsley in command. No, I'm not talking about the *comics*. Danny's is a tough act to follow, though I'm sure Jim will do just fine. I'm talking about the *office*. Gone is Disheveled Danny's messy workspace. Here, apparently to stay, is Jim's high-tech, high-class *editorial environment*, complete with chrome-and-glass desk, custom lighting, chairs, potted palms and, get this, *a reclining patio lounge chair with matching beach ball*.

Hmm.

It's certainly *cleaner* looking, but you know, Danny's piles of junk and heaps of papers did have a certain repulsive charm. Sometimes, late at night, I'd swear they moved by themselves . . .

Oh, well. Congratulations to both of you guys!

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT . . . !

. . . will be coming your way next month right here in this column! It concerns a certain short-but-mighty *barbarian* . . .

Keep warm!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

HYPE BOX

SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — Even the bravest man will turn and run from a member of the Sisterhood! They are the best warriors their age has to offer — an elite corps of women mercenaries! What does it take to become a part of this fearsome fighting group? Find out as Boromwé, a girl just entering womanhood, takes her final tests in the arts of warfare. If she passes, the world will be at her feet. If she doesn't . . . The SISTERHOOD OF STEEL — their story is brought to life through the talents of CHRISTY MARX (writer) and MIKE VOSBURG (artist). From EPIC COMICS.

GRAPHIC NOVEL #14 — SWASHBUCKLERS. It's about a rowdy band of pirates that sail the seas between planets! SWASHBUCKLERS! It's about a desperate battle to save Earth from the deadly threat of "The Colonizers!" SWASHBUCKLERS! It's about time you ran down to your bookstore to get your own copy of this masterpiece by BILL MANTLO / BUTCH GUICE (the team that raised the MICRONAUTS to new heights of adventure!)! Soon to be an EPIC COMICS series!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — The destructive villainy of Juggernaut and Black Tom *together* would cause any normal man to head for the hills. Even a super hero would think twice about taking them on! Fortunately, Spider-Man and the X-Men have no such doubts, and the battle is on! LOUISE SIMONSON (writer) and GREG LAROCQUE, MIKE ESPOSITO, and VINNIE COLLETA (artists) really knocked themselves out on this *final-issue extravaganza!* It even sports a BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH cover! But how can this be the end of MARVEL TEAM-UP? Well, all good things must come to an end, as they say, to make room for something *better!* Be here in two months for the first issue of an all-new, all-great SPIDER-MAN title!

POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — He helped usher Luke Cage into the Marvel Age, and now he's back as guest penciler for an issue! That's right, it's BILLY GRAHAM penciling JIM OWSLEY's story about Gordy, the most harmless-looking little man Cage and the Fist have ever seen! However, Gordy is going to have a profound and dangerous effect on the lives of our Heroes for Hire! And with the growing threat of Control 7, a group of some of the most deadly and nefarious villains in the world, you know that this issue is not to be missed!

CRYSTAR #11 — Secrets are revealed, questions are answered and plot threads are tied up in "Resolution." Will it be a happy ending for Crystalium, or will it be more dangerous than anyone could imagine? You know something's up when Alpha Flight makes the scene! Don't miss any of the excitement in this *final issue* written by JO DUFFY and illustrated by RICARDO VILLAMONTE! Look for the cover by MICHAEL GOLDEN!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #20**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #215**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #24**
- ☐ **RED SONJA #9**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #10** — Fantastic Four, Avengers, X-Men, Hulk, Klaw, Doom, Galactus, Beyonder. *Awesome!!*
- ☐ **ICEMAN (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **BUCKAROO BANZAI (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #302**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #26**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #7**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #5**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #19**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #68**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #11** — The end of an epic! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #304**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #252**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #167**
- ☐ **X-MEN #190**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #172** — Reprinting "The Final Chapter" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man #33*.
- ☐ **ROM #63**
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114** — Featuring a surprise guest-penciler! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #32**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #9**
- ☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #275**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #191**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #140**
- ☐ **THOR #352**
- ☐ **STARRIORS (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #150** — Featuring *Spider-Man* and the *Uncanny X-Men!* Final double-sized issue! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **STAR WARS #92**
- ☐ **DR. WHO #5**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #108**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #23**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #5**
- ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1** — In an age ancient and barbaric, they are the killer elite! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #16**
- ☐ **TIME SPIRITS #2**

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- ☐ **#14: SWASHBUCKLERS** — Not what you might expect! See Hype Box.

AND SO..
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, BETH.
AND DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET THOSE GUNS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
ALL I'VE GOTTA FIGURE OUT IS HOW--
WHROK
UKHHNNNN...
DARKNESS CLOAKED IN A MANTLE OF NIGHT... THE EBON SEA IN WHICH INDIANA JONES SWIMS FOR UNCOUNTED MOMENTS ...UNFEELING...UNTIL...
WH... WHA...
MY HANDS...A-AND ANKLES! TIED!
BUT TO WHAT--
--OH...MY... LORD!
TELL ME, MR. AMERIKAN BIGSHOT, YOU ARE PERHAPS BEING FAMILIAR WITH THE EXPRESSION--
21

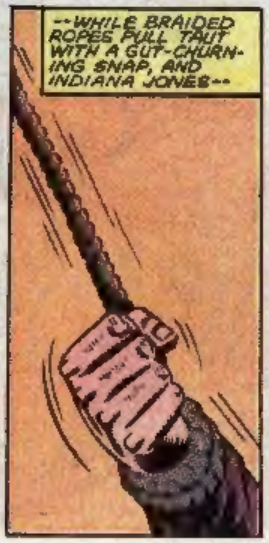
--"DRAWN AND QUARTERED"?
IT DESCRIBES THE PROCESS OF HAVING HORSES PULL AT A MAN'S LIMBS UNTIL THEY TEAR HIM INTO FOUR RATHER BLOODY--
I GET THE PICTURE, PUGACHEV!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

IS POSSIBLE--WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I STAGED THAT FIGHT OVER YOUR SCRAWNY AMERIKAN WOMAN.' A COSSACK WOULD NEVER BEGRUDGE ANOTHER HIS REVENGE --ESPECIALLY AGAINST AN OUTSIDER.'
I MAY BE PUNISHED, BUT I WILL STILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN WITH THE TRIBE THERE TO CARRY OUT MY TRUE PURPOSE-- AS A SPY FOR COUNT SALKOVICH!

I SEE REALIZATION LIGHT YOUR EYES. YOU NOW KNOW WHY THE RED CAVALRY WAS SO CLOSE... AND WHY I MUST ASSURE THE COUNT THAT YOU WILL NO LONGER BE A THREAT TO HIS DELICATE POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS!
PUGACHEV, YOU SLEAZY, TURNCOAT SONUVA--

THRAK
THE INSULT IS CUT SHORT--

--AS SPIRITED STALLIONS REAR HIGH, BOLTING FORWARD--


--WHILE BRAIDED ROPES PULL TAUT WITH A GUT-CHURNING SNAP, AND INDIANA JONES--

--SCREAMS!
TO BE CONTINUED!

READERS OF THE LOST ARK

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Marvel,

Just a word of thanks for your excellent comic! Ever since seeing "Raiders of the Lost Ark" I've kept my eyes open for any literature on Indiana Jones and his further adventures, but no one seemed interested enough to write anything on the subject. Finally, I found your comic and it sure helped me to overcome the feeling of depression incurred by Indy, Marion and company's three year absence from the screen. And speaking of Ms. Ravenwood, please don't separate Marion and Indy. She was and is an integral part of "Raiders" and your comicbook's charm and appeal.

There is, however, something which distresses me — Indy's apparent enjoyment of violence. In issue #22, when he and Hans Degan were attacked by Ben Ali Ayoob's assassins, Indy stated that he was "just having fun" and admitted his pleasure in fighting and probably killing off the bad guys. In "Raiders," the real character of Indiana Jones was established as a harried archaeologist and professor who had to endure unexpected violence in order to obtain the object he desired. He did not purposely seek violence or use it as a source of enjoyment. I'm not asking you to actually "soften" him, but please try to keep his character pretty consistent with his original personality in "Raiders". Don't let him become a ruthless person.

Besides just showing action, adventure, and chases, you also have the opportunity to further develop the characters and relationships already established. You can explore the past as well as the present (1936, that is) and, as a comic, you have much more room for development than a film. You can use this situation to write about things such as Marion's and Indy's past affair or the influence that Abner Ravenwood exerted on Indy and his career.

Still, I think you guys are doing a commendable job in the difficult task of following up the movies. My last wish is that your issues would come out more often!

Helen Chang
39 Pine Knoll Dr.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Well, Helen, once a month is about the most we can muster, but we appreciate your very kind wishes for an increased publishing schedule. If they could only add a few dozen more hours in the day . . .

On the serious side, we do intend to continue exploring Indy Jones' past, picking up on tantalizing tidbits from both films and expanding on them. And that should keep us in business for the next decade or so, Ms. Chang.

And on the matter of Dr. Jones' alleged love of violence, when Indy spoke so flippantly about going into battle, he was speaking as a man used to fighting of necessity, not necessarily as one who revels in it. But thanks for bringing up the point, Helen. It's folks like you that keep us on our creative toes.

Dear Folks,

Just thought I'd drop you a line about the good job you've done on THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INDIANA JONES. Issues 20, 21, and 22, in my opinion, were the best ones yet. The plot was intriguing, and I enjoyed the way Indy went from Connecticut to Cuba to Wales. I like these three-part stories.

With the release of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" you have many new options opening up. This movie was different from "Raiders" in many ways. In "Raiders", Indy went after the Ark of the Covenant mainly because the Ark represented everything he had entered archaeology for — in the first place. In "Temple of Doom", however, he pursued the Sankara Stones simply to help the people of the village. This movie showed a very human, compassionate side of Indy, and I think it would be great if you used plotlines which reflected this aspect of his personality.

Why not bring back Willie Scott for a little while? I like Marion Ravenwood as well as anybody, but I don't think that Indy has to concentrate on only one woman at a time. Ms. Scott supposedly went home to Missouri at the end of "Temple of Doom". Why not have Indy and Marion go there for some obscure archaeological reason and then just happen to bump into Willie? It'd be interesting to see how the two women would react to each other.

Why not have Indy team up with Short Round again? And while we're at it, you could bring in Sallah, Jack Lindsey, or Simon Kalanga. The possibilities are endless. So far, you've been printing stories that take place after "Raiders". You could place a few adventures between the two movies, or even before them.

Finally, the only complaint I have is the manner in which Indy is drawn. He doesn't look at all like Harrison Ford. I read the INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM adaptation, however, and the art was excellent. The inking by Akin and Garvey was inspired.

Well, I'll have to close for now. Take it easy, and keep up the good work.

Todd Lawrence
33091 Mesa Vista
Dana Point, CA 92629

Keep your eyes open, Todd, because some of the characters you mentioned will be showing up in the near future. Short Round, in fact, is in this very issue, and there are plans to use Lao Che (from "Temple of Doom") as a villain in an upcoming story. But we're not telling everything, Todd, so be prepared for some surprises over the next few months.

And, since you happened to mention Akin and Garvey, you'll be happy to know that, following their triumphant teamup on ROM, they've now been reunited with penciller Sal Buscema on KULL THE CONQUEROR #5. Once you see it, you'll love it!

And we also predict you'll love the wind-up to our rootin'-tootin' Buffalo Bill saga next issue — assuming, of course, that Indiana Jones escapes the little predicament we're leaving him in at the end of this cliffhanger. How does he escape? Well!, you'll just have to hang loose for a mere thirty days to await the answer. We know it's tough, but that's show biz.

See you in thirty, adventure lovers.